

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL APPEAR WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY 12 APRIL

EASTER DAY SERVICES

Sul y Pasg / Easter Day

9.45am St Grwst's Easter Eucharist

11.15am St Ffraid's Easter Eucharist

**Due Covid restrictions we can only have a maximum of 30
in each church for services currently so if you are planning
on coming to an Easter Day service YOU WILL NEED TO
BOOK!**

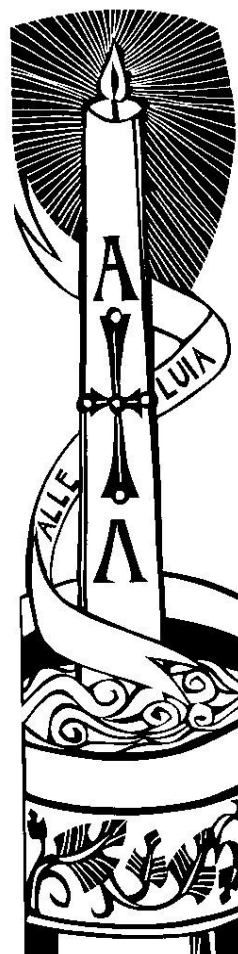
**You can do this by phoning me (01492 640032)
or sending me an email (revsarah3005@btinternet.com)
as soon as you can.**

Rev'd Sarah Hildreth-Osborn - 01492 640032
revsarah3005@btinternet.com

St Grwst, Llanrwst. St Doged's Pilgrim Church, Llanddoged,
St Ffraid's Church, Glan Conwy.
ABERCONWY MISSION AREA

Cylchlythyr Eglwys / Church Newsletter 02.04.21

*A version of the Exultet
said or sung at the
Easter Vigil*



Choirs of angels, stars and planets:
All God's people sing and dance.
All creation, Church of God:
All God's people sing and dance.
We praise you Lord of life and death:
we glorify your name:
All God's people sing and dance.
This is the night you set us free,
bringing us home in love;
holy night, when you led your people
through the fearsome sea:
All God's people sing and dance.
This is the night you brought your Son
through the doors of death;
O holy night, when death takes flight
and hope is born again:
All God's people sing and dance.
This is the night our tears of sadness
turn to shouts of joy;
holy night, when the choirs of earth
sing the songs of heaven:
All God's people sing and dance.
This is the night when Christ our Light
makes the darkness bright:
All God's people sing and dance.
Christ is the life that knows no end.
Christ is the love that burns within.
Christ is the peace that floods the world.
Christ is the Lord who reigns on high.
All God's people sing and dance.
Amen.

Pause for thought...

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of a time of intense activity or a period when much thought has to be put into something I don't think there's anything wrong with having something to look forward to. I wonder how many of you have bribed children or grandchildren with some tasty if you've wanted to them to do some chores? Have you ever promised yourself something you really enjoy but you can only have it after the ironing is done (or whatever your least favourite household job is complete)?

The one service during Holy Week that I really look forward to and if I was asked to choose a 'favourite' service during Holy Week it would be the Easter Vigil (due to the nature of that service it isn't taking place this year). The Easter Vigil however is not a treat however, it is part of the natural progression of the story of death and resurrection.

The service is meant to begin in darkness, a fire is lit near the Church door and the Paschal Candle (a symbolic reminder of the presence of the Risen Christ among his people) is lit and worshippers enter a dark building with the priest proclaiming **'THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'** and all responding with the words **'THANKS BE TO GOD'**. The Paschal Candle is set in its stand and the Exultet is either said or sung.

After the darkness, pain and suffering that we see Jesus endure during the events of Holy Week the simple act of lighting the Paschal Candle, sends a shiver down my spine and puts a fresh skip in my step as we celebrate Jesus risen and always with us.

Candles have always played a big part in our worship as Anglican Christians. The candles in the Altar, symbolic of the Old and New Testament, candles lit by statues as a sign of the light of Christ represented in the lives of the saints, candles lit by you and me as a sign of our prayers for others and ourselves.

The great things about a candle is that it only takes the smallest of flames to brighten up and chase away the darkness. A small flame

The Invitation of Easter

And across our beautiful,
evolving world another Easter dawns,
tenderly inviting us to ponder upon
wider truths and alternative visions.

Truths of both heart and mind
that find their roots
in the mystery and practicality of God.

Basic truths illuming our own uncertain journeys—
allowing us to reconnect with the energies of Christ.

That life does come from death;
that hate is not the final word;
that the broken continue to sing with joy;
that he trees and the mountains clap their hands;
that forgiveness resides in the heart of the human condition;
that love, with it's multiple faces, remains our companion.

So Christ is risen!
Risen again, in the midst of it all -
that in some amazing way
we too
may be a people of hope
who walk in the light
filled with the Spirit.

Peter Millar, Fire and bread p66,67

Christ the Lord is Risen today - Words and meaning

1 Christ the Lord is risen today,
Alleluia!

Earth and heaven in chorus say,
Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs
high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply,
Alleluia!

2 Love's redeeming work is
done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won,
Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise,
Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise,
Alleluia!

3 Lives again our glorious King,
Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy
sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save,
Alleluia!

Where's thy victory, boasting
grave? Alleluia!

4 Soar we now where Christ has
led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head,
Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise,
Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave,
the skies, Alleluia!

Charles Wesley, the co-founder of the Methodist Church, wrote "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" in 1739. It was initially titled "Hymn for Easter Day". He based it on an older anonymous Bohemian hymn titled "Jesus Christ is Risen Today".

The new hymn was first performed at the first service at the Foundry Meeting House after Wesley had adapted it into the first Methodist chapel. Following this, Wesley published it in the Hymns and Sacred Poems hymnal. It was initially written with eleven verses of four lines each. It was also published in A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People called Methodists hymnal. It remains a traditional processional hymn on Easter Sunday. The hymn is characterized as leading to a more popular awareness of Alleluia being used for Easter to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

enables us to see the path before and any obstacles we might encounter. The light, if it is a candle, also provides us with warmth. It might only be a small amount of warmth, enough to bring some heat to our hands but that warmth is enough when life seems cold and foreboding.

The Paschal Candle is usually the biggest candle you'll find in any church and it carries additional symbols.

The ALPHA and OMEGA to remind us that God is from everlasting to everlasting. There are usually 5 incense studs that represent the wounds of Christ. Finally there is the year that the Candle will be used in - a reminder that God is real, alive and with us **TODAY, IN THE HERE AND NOW!**

Taking the light and warmth that emanates from every candle we are reminded of the truth that God and the truth we discover about God illuminates our daily lives. The warmth of the candle reminds us of God's constant and never-failing love, always there, undetected sometimes but nonetheless beside us. See all those elements along with all that we see in Paschal Candle and we have a symbol that rightly stands at the heart of our Easter celebrations.

We cannot really grasp the mystery, joy, love and wonder at the heart of the our Easter feast unless we walk closely with Christ and learn from him on his journey to the cross and beyond.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...'

John 3:16

At the heart for all that happens in the coming days is love. Jesus resurrection from the dead, a complete mystery, is all shrouded in love, a love that is conveyed very simply in the flicker of a candle flame.

Perhaps this year, especially if you are unable to attend a church service you might want to light a candle at home as a reminder of God's constant presence with you as God surrounds you with his love and peace.

Pob Bendith a Pasg Hapus / Every Blessing and a Happy Easter ~
Rev'd Sarah

EASTER 2020 by Malcolm Guite

Church Services on Zoom

Our Zoom services take place at **9.45am** every Sunday.
If you would like a copy of the Order of Service please email
Rev Sarah: revsarah3005@btinternet.com

To join us, either use the following link or enter the Meeting ID
and password as follows:

Sunday service

9.45am every Sunday until things get back to normal!!

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83139796281?
pwd=NThhMWV0R290UitlcExZeXdIRlFLdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83139796281?pwd=NThhMWV0R290UitlcExZeXdIRlFLdz09)

Meeting ID: 831 3979 6281

Password: 837996

Paned @ St Grwst's! - coffee & chat

To join us, either use the following link or enter the Meeting ID
and password as follows:

Every Tuesday @ 11.00am

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86951893623?
pwd=cHhoZTRpYnRvb05HaTZlbnUvOUlCZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86951893623?pwd=cHhoZTRpYnRvb05HaTZlbnUvOUlCZz09)

Meeting ID: 869 5189 3623

Password: 200630

If you need help in setting up Zoom or need to test it's working, then
please contact Rev Sarah on 01492 640032 who should be able to
help you.

And where is Jesus,
this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches,
anymore than he was sealed in that
dark sepulchre.

The locks are loosed; the stone is
rolled away, and he is up and risen,
long before, alive, at large, and making
his strong way into the world he gave
his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty
grave.

He might have been a wafer
in the hands of priests this day,
or music from the lips of
red-robed choristers, instead he
slips away from church, shakes
off our linen bands to don his
apron with a nurse: he grips and
lifts a stretcher, soothes with
gentle hands the frail flesh of the
dying, gives them hope, breathes
with the breathless, lends them
strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
and served us in a thousand names and faces
mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
of that *corona* which was death to him:

Good Friday happened in a thousand places
where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
that they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

Malcolm Guite's thoughts on this poem

Like all of us, I have been drawn deeply into this strange Easter when so much of the outwardly familiar has been taken away, and yet the inwardly familiar, the great Easter story of Death and Resurrection, has suddenly been renewed and become more agonisingly close, more vividly relevant to our lives than ever. But, like so many, I am deeply distressed at not being able to gather in church this morning, and to receive communion in community, to meet Christ 'risen in bread, and revelling in wine', as I put it in a sonnet long ago. But this Easter he calls me to discern him in new ways and in different places. He is risen indeed, and if I cannot go to church then where am I to find him? That is the question my new poem seeks to address, and if it is a question you ask yourselves too, then I hope you will find this poem helpful.